

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 OMB-01 /142 W

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R 182140Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3323

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USCINCSO

AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 5346

USCINCSO FOR J-2

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, OTRA, CO RO, PL

SUBJECT: REMARKS OF PRESIDENT-ELECT LOPEZ

1. PRESIDENT-ELECT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN LEFT COLOMBIA ON JUNE 17. HE PLANS TO TRAVEL ABROAD FOR SEVERAL WEEKS PRIOR TO TAKING OFFICE ON AUGUST 7.

2. IN MESSAGE TO THE NATION ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE, LOPEZ STRESSED HIS ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF ALL THE COLOMBIANS. HE POINTED OUT THE CLEAR MANDATE THAT THE ELECTORATE HAD GIVEN HIM AND HIS PARTY BUT EMPHASIZED HIS INTENTION OF GOVERNING IN COALITION WITH THE MINORITY CONSERVATIVE PARTY, AS CALLED FOR BY THE COLOMBIAN CONSTITUTION. (THE CONSTITUTION CALLS FOR PARITY IN APPOINTIVE OFFICES DURING THE 1974-78 PERIOD.) HE SAID THAT ANY "EXCESS OF TRIUMPHANCY" ON THE PART OF THE LIBERAL FACTION COULD BE MOST DAMAGING TO THE NATION. HE NOTED THAT CERTAIN OFFICIALS OF PRESENT ADMINISTRATION HAD WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION ASSUMED SUCH AN ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE VICTORS

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AND WERE HASTENING TO MAKE VARIOUS LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS

SUCH AS DIPLOMATIC SERVICE APPOINTMENTS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT, BY LAW, SUCH APPOINTMENTS TERMINATE ON AUGUST 7.

3. LOPEZ STATED THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO INTERVENE IN ANY WAY IN THE ELECTION OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP OF THE LIBERAL PARTY (TO BE CHOSEN AT THE JULY 26 CONVENTION) OR IN THE SELECTION OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE SENATE AND CHAMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES. HE ALSO STATED HIS INTENTION OF STAYING APART FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE DESIGNADO, THE PERSON DESIGNATED TO ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY ON THE DEATH OR ABSENCE OF THE INCUMBENT.

4. THE TIMING OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S TRIP IS PROBABLY FORTUNATE IN THAT IT WILL PUT HIM AT A CONVENIENT DISTANCE FROM THE MANEUVERING FOR PARTY AND GOVERNMENTAL POSTS THAT IS NOW UNDERWAY.

HIS STATED NEUTRALITY AND HIS ABSENCE WILL, IN PARTICULAR, INSULATE HIM FROM THE FRICTION THAT WILL ACCOMPANY THE EFFORTS OF PARTY CHIEF JULIO CESAR TURBAY TO ACHIEVE ONE OR SEVERAL OF SUCH HIGH POSTS AS DESIGNADO, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, OR FOREIGN MINISTER. TURBAY WHO IS BELIEVED TO BE AIMING AT THE 1978 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION, HAS A NUMBER OF ENEMIES WITHIN THE PARTY WHO WILL BE ATTEMPTING TO SLOW HIS PROGRESS.

5. LOPEZ ITINERARY HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED BUT HE WILL GO INITIALLY TO PARIS. A SOURCE CLOSE TO LOPEZ SAID HE WAS ALSO EXPECTED TO VISIT ROMANIA.  
VAKY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PINT, OTRA, CO, RO, PL, FR, (LOPEZ MICHELSEN, ALFONSO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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